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NEAR EAST RELIEF

REPORT TO CONGRESS FOR 1923

NEW YORK
1924

NEAR EAST RELIEF

REPORT TO CONGRESS FOR 1923

NATIONAL OFFICERS
MAP OF NEAR EAST RELIEF ACTIVITIES
REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
TREASURER'S REPORT
GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT
REPORT OF OVERSEAS OBSERVERS
CHARTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
151 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK
1924

NEAR EAST RELIEF

151 Fifth Avenue, New York

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PREFACE

NEAR EAST RELIEF operates under a charter granted by Act of Congress August 6, 1919, which states that "the object for which said corporation is incorporated shall be to provide relief and to assist in the repatriation, and re-establishment of suffering and dependent people of the Near East and adjacent areas; to provide for the care of orphans and widows and to promote the social, economic and industrial welfare of those who have been rendered destitute, or dependent directly or indirectly, by the vicissitudes of war, the cruelties of men, or other causes beyond their control."

Following pages are taken from the Annual Report made to Congress for the calendar year 1923, submitted with this official letter of transmission:

To the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States:

SIRS:

In accordance with the Act of Incorporation of Near East Relief, approved by the President August 6, 1919, we submit herewith report for the year ending December 31, 1923, in the form of:

1. Report of the Executive Committee to the Board of Trustees for the calendar year 1923, as presented at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees February 28, 1924.
2. Treasurer's Report for the calendar year 1923.
3. Auditors' Report for the calendar year 1923.
4. Report of the General Secretary for 1923, with charts, as submitted at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees February 28, 1924.
5. Report of Overseas Observers.
6. Officers and members who have served on the Board of trustees during the year 1923.

On behalf of the Executive Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES V. VICKREY,
General Secretary.

March 31, 1924

This map shows the areas in which Near East Relief now operates. Before the Smyrna disaster a large part of the work of Near East Relief was in the shaded area. All the orphans have now been transferred and are safe in the Caucasus and Persia, in Greece, Syria and Palestine. Near East Relief aims to prepare every child for self-support. The map shows the type of industrial training given at each industrial center.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
TO THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Executive Committee Meetings

During the year covered by this report, January 1 to December 31, 1923, regular monthly meetings of the Executive Committee have been held except during the summer months, and sub-committee meetings have been held as occasion demanded between the regular meetings of the Executive Committee. The minutes of these Committee meetings have been sent regularly for information to all members of the Board of Trustees, together with accompanying financial statements, cablegrams and reports from the field of relief operations. The official copies of these minutes are formally submitted to the Board of Trustees as a part of this report.

Changes in the Board of Trustees and Committees

With deep gratitude we note that during the past year, for the second successive year, there have been no changes, occasioned by death, resignation, or other causes, in the membership of the Board of Trustees or committees of Near East Relief.

Emergency Problems Resulting from the Smyrna Disaster

Although more than a year has elapsed since the Smyrna disaster, Near East Relief has, throughout the entire year of 1923, remained under the shadow of this and subsequent, related emergencies. The organization, institutions, and equipment that, during a period of five years, had been built up with Constantinople as a center have had to be abandoned or at great expense transplanted to other areas. New buildings have of necessity been constructed or old ones repaired and equipped for service. More than 22,000

of our orphans have been transferred, many of them 500 miles overland from the interior of Anatolia to places of safety in Greece, Syria, and Palestine. Whole orphanages have had to be dismantled and re-established as many as five times during the year in five widely separated locations under three different flags. Every such forced removal means inevitable heavy expense and loss. Scores of thousands of refugees, driven from their homes in Anatolia, marooned at Black Sea, Marmora, Aegean, and Mediterranean ports, or aboard crowded ships in harbors, have had to be fed or left to perish. In addition to the earlier and larger life-saving service in the Caucasus, at least a quarter of a million, possibly a half million, of lives have been saved this year in Western Anatolia and Greece, but at the expense of the reserve supplies and resources that are now needed for orphanage work.

Re-organization of Overseas Administration

The radical changes of the past year, beginning with the Smyrna disaster, the subsequent evacuation of Anatolia, the abandonment of Constantinople as our chief administrative center, and the re-organization of the orphanages on a peace-time, constructive, industrial basis, have involved important changes in our plan of overseas administration. A conference of the Managing Directors, representatives of the Overseas Administrative Committees, and the General Secretary, presided over by Dr. W. W. Peet, Chairman of our Constantinople Administrative Committee, was held in Athens August 17th to 23rd. At this conference, a series of recommendations were prepared with reference to a re-organized Overseas Advisory Committee, Area Councils, budget, and a new financial plan, which, having been approved by the Overseas Directors, were presented to the Executive Committee and adopted at its meeting on September 27, 1923. The new financial plan gives to the responsible committees and officers in New York a more rigid control of disbursements, but at the same time retains a representative, non-salaried Advisory Committee and Area Councils in each overseas

Barge load of Greeks from the interior of Anatolia arrive at Mitylene for embarkation to Greece. Near East Relief at the request of the Greek and Turkish Governments served with the International Committee in the exchange of populations.

administrative center. The minutes of the regular meetings of these Area Councils as well as of the Overseas Advisory Committee are regularly forwarded to New York, duplicated, and bound into the dockets of the Executive Committee for the information and guidance of each member of the Executive Committee preliminary to the Committee meetings.

Response of the American Public

The financial response of the public has been most gratifying. Fear had been expressed that there would be a rapid diminution of contributions, but, as shown by the Treasurer's Report, there has been but little decrease in the contributions for 1923 as compared with 1922. The depletion of our reserve during the year has been due not so much to decreased receipts as to heavy emergency disbursements necessitated by the aftermath of the Smyrna disaster.

Audits

During the year, the accounts of the New York Office have been regularly audited by Messrs. Hurdman & Cranstoun,

Certified Public Accountants, New York, and the overseas accounts have been likewise audited by Messrs. Russell & Company, Chartered Accountants, of London, Cairo, and Constantinople.

Co-operation of State, County, Local Volunteer Committees

The sustained support and devotion to the interests of orphaned childhood in the Near East are due in large measure to the faithful service of volunteer committees in the various states, cities, and communities. More than 10,000 committee members and volunteer workers have contributed their services during the past year. Many of these are chairmen of county committees or local representatives who recognize that the children whom they have helped to save must be educated and equipped for life service or the expenditures of the past will have been largely nullified; and such chairmen and leaders are prepared to continue the service as long as the need requires.

Co-operation of Advisory Committees

An equally important factor in sustained, nation-wide interest has been the work of co-operating Advisory Committees, representing various national organizations: religious, political, social, commercial, and industrial. Many of these national organizations have not only passed resolutions at their national conventions endorsing the work of Near East Relief, but have officially appointed Advisory Committees to co-operate with Near East Relief in appealing to their membership. A list of these Advisory Committees, appointed by the national assembly or council of various religious organizations, by the International Sunday School Council, the National Education Association, the International Federation of Labor, interdenominational young people's societies, the Farm Bureau Federation, the Grange, the Boy Scouts of America, commercial clubs, the National Women's Federation, and other organizations, is on file with the General Secretary's report. It has been this volunteer service on a titanic scale, varied, efficient, and repeated, that has made possible the international service of

Near East Relief. There has, at the same time, been a reciprocal benefit in the service. Educational leaders in charge of public and private schools have eagerly welcomed this opportunity to serve the children of the Near East because of the reflex educational and character-building value of the service upon the children of America.

International Golden Rule Sunday

The co-operation of various national organizations was especially notable in connection with the Golden Rule campaign in which all religious, philanthropic, and many commercial and social organizations found a common platform. Unfortunately, the plan of the Golden Rule campaign in 1923 was conceived too late for the full mobilization of the otherwise available co-operation of these national organizations.

The observance of Golden Rule Sunday in 1923 may be regarded as in large measure experimental. The response, while gratifying, is chiefly suggestive of what may be and, we believe, will be done by a longer period of preparation and a more effective organization of sympathetic, co-operating agencies in 1924.

The income for December, approximating a million dollars, while not altogether traceable to the Golden Rule Sunday, was doubtless largely stimulated by it. The reflex spiritual influence upon the contributing public is felt by some to have been scarcely less important than the financial returns and the material relief to the beneficiaries overseas. Another encouraging feature of the response was the large number of small contributors represented by the offering. During the month of December of this year, the offices of Near East Relief issued a total of 76,735 separate, numbered, quadruplicate receipts in acknowledgment of as many checks or contributions, and many of these checks represented several individual contributors remitting through heads of families, societies, churches, schools, and local committees. Of even greater significance perhaps was the fact

that 73 per cent. of the receipts issued from the National Office during December were to persons whose names had never before appeared upon our records covering seven years of time.

Plans have already been inaugurated by the Executive Committee for the effective, nation-wide observance of Golden Rule Sunday, December 7, 1924. It is hoped and believed that, by early organization, and by the enlistment of the co-operation of various sympathetic national organizations and periodicals, we may secure a substantial portion of our total financial requirements from the observance of this Golden Rule Sunday and at the same time contribute to the enrichment of the spiritual life and benevolence of our country.

International Co-operation

During the past year there has been organized the International Near East Association, which brings into co-operative relationship committees analogous to Near East Relief in various countries. The object of this Association is "to promote co-operation and increased efficiency on the part of all organizations and individuals who are seeking to relieve suffering, provide for the care of orphans, or otherwise promote the social, economic, industrial, and educational development of the Near East." Near East Relief is one of the twelve or more national organizations constituting this International Association. At the meeting of the Executive Committee on December 28th, the following resolution was adopted:

> "That the care of the orphaned children of the Near East be regarded as an international obligation, resulting from the late World War in which nearly all nations participated, and that we therefore urge international participation in the support of these orphans through the international observance of Golden Rule Sunday or such other means as may appeal to the people of various countries."

This international co-operation was significantly expressed in connection with the Golden Rule observance of last December, nearly all the countries of Europe as well as Japan, Korea, Australia, and countries of the Near East having participated. It is hoped that by better organization we may have something approaching a universal observance or world fellowship of the Golden Rule and that with the co-operation of kindred associations in other countries we can make a substantial contribution not only to the saving of the lives of the orphaned children of the Near East but to the rebuilding of a new, better Near East and the establishment of international good will and world peace on the principles of the Golden Rule.

Respectfully submitted,

EDWIN M. BULKLEY, Chairman.

February 28, 1924.

Delegates of the International Near East Association, representing fourteen different countries, which met at Geneva, Switzerland, in September, 1923.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The total income of Near East Relief from all sources up to December 31, 1923, has amounted to $72,974,269.26, and of this amount $8,517,945.50 was received during the year ended December 31, 1923. Total disbursements and commitments have amounted to $73,617,449.91, and of this total $9,489,515.31 were incurred during the year 1923. The operations of the past year, therefore, resulted in a deficit of $971,569.81 which absorbed the balance of $328,389.16 carried forward from last year, and left a deficit in all operations to December 31, 1923, amounting to $643,180.65. Offsetting this deficit, there was $255,615.80 in state depositories not included in the Auditor's Statement, collectible pledges held in the National and State Offices totaling $1,193,501.75 and assets in the form of cash and supplies on hand overseas amounting to $2,132,081.56, which appear on the New York books among the disbursements but which are actually available overseas for the future program.

The above statement of income and disbursements does not include flour secured through the United States Grain Corporation and American Relief Administration valued at $12,800,000, which would bring the total to $85,774,269.26. The income during the year 1923, $8,517,945.50, although somewhat below that of previous years, is noteworthy in that it sets a record for the number of personal individual remittances transmitted overseas. During the year 1923 the Individual Remittance Department received and transmitted $642,443.85 representing 7,866 separate items, as compared with $480,147.81 representing 6,395 items in 1922 and $398,379.35 representing 3,263 items in 1921. This increase in individual remittance contributions is significant since it indicates an increasing number of refugees and children supported directly by their relatives in America, thereby relieving Near East Relief of the responsibility for their support and making funds so released available for use elsewhere.

In addition, during the year 1923 specially designated funds totaling $416,220.29 were received and transmitted overseas. The majority of such special contributions were designated for relief operations which, if not provided for in this manner, probably would have been taken care of from regular Near East Relief funds. Such remittances, therefore, are to be encouraged.

The disbursements for the first eight months of 1923 continue to reflect the results of the Smyrna disaster and subsequent emergencies. During the last four months of 1922, immediately following the Smyrna disaster, our emergency disbursements, traceable to this disaster, were $1,135,597.43 in excess of normal disbursements; but the major portion of the financial outlay resulting from the Smyrna disaster came in the first eight months of 1923 when the continued destitution and winter requirements of the refugees, marooned in various Black Sea, Marmora, Aegean, and Mediterranean ports, and the payment of earlier obligations and drafts incurred in connection with the evacuation of the orphans from Harpoot and the interior of Anatolia, necessitated disbursements totaling $6,420,643.85, which was $2,037,080.76 in excess of normal orphanage and child-welfare requirements. The sum total of disbursements during the twelve-month period from September 1, 1922, to September 1, 1923, traceable to the Smyrna disaster and related emergencies, was $3,172,678.19. These emergency disbursements clearly account for the exhaustion of the orphanage reserve funds and for the present financial limitations.

All the above facts and figures are included in statements prepared by Hurdman & Cranstoun, Certified Public Accountants, which are attached hereto and which cover in detail the receipts and disbursements for the year 1923 and for all operations to date.

In the foreign field Russell & Co., Chartered Accountants, conducted their continuous audit during the year and were of considerable aid to the Managing Director and finance staffs of the various areas. They have rendered reports

which are on file in the National Office for record. In a letter dated January 28, 1924, they briefly summarize the year's work and commend the overseas work as follows:

> "We maintain a running audit of the books and accounts of the foreign offices of Near East Relief, and, subject to the detailed reports which have been submitted by us periodically, we have found the operations to be correctly stated and sufficiently vouched in accordance with the explanations given to us and as shown by the books, and the funds to have been administered in accordance with the financial advices received from New York. Further, the funds appear to us to have been administered efficiently and economically."

Respectfully submitted,

Cleveland E. Dodge.

(For Cleveland H. Dodge, Treasurer.)

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

January 1 to December 31, 1923

Balance, December 31, 1922			$328,389.16
	Total	*Relief Funds*	*Expense Funds*
RECEIPTS			
Contributions			
General Relief (Net)	$7,736,068.90		
Individual Relief	642,993.85	$8,379,062.75	
Expense Funds			
Private Contributions for Expense	124,757.29		
Interest on Bank Balances and Income from Securities	14,125.46	138,882.75	
Total Receipts (Net)			8,517,945.50
			8,846,334.66
DISBURSEMENTS			
Relief Payments			
General Relief	8,155,363.81		
Individual Relief	641,708.52	8,797,072.33	
National Headquarters Expense			
General Administrative Expense	73,672.26		
Publicity Expense	96,347.84		
Field Expense	508,686.69		
Interest on Loans	2,577.73		
Accts. Receivable Written Off	7,646.89		
Loss on Sale of Securities	3,511.57		
Total Expense		692,442.98	
Total Disbursements			9,489,515.31
DEFICIT, December 31, 1923			$ 643,180.65

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

To December 31, 1923

	Total	*Relief Funds*	*Expense Funds*
RECEIPTS			
Contributions			
General Relief (Net) ...	$66,704,988.87	$66,704,988.87	
Individual Relief	3,518,599.77	3,518,599.77	
Expense Funds			
Contributions for Expense	1,817,907.86		$1,817,907.86
Refunds of Freight and Transportation Ch'g's.	170,521.17		170,521.17
Interest on Bank Balances and Income from Securities	758,035.07		758,035.07
Interest on Loans and Advances	4,216.52		4,216.52
Total Receipts (Net) ...	$72,974,269.26	$70,223,588.64	$2,750,680.62
DISBURSEMENTS			
Relief Payments			
General Relief	66,172,195.62	66,172,195.62	
Individual Relief	3,515,071.44	3,515,071.44	
Total Relief Payments..	69,687,267.06	69,687,267.06	
Administrative and General Expense (Net)	3,930,182.85		3,930,182.85
Total Disbursem'ts (Net)	73,617,449.91	69,687,267.06	3,930,182.85
DEFICIT, Dec. 31, 1923	$ 643,180.65	$ 536,321.58*	$1,179,502.23

RELIEF APPROPRIATIONS

To December 31, 1923

	General Relief Appropriations	*Individual Relief*	*Total Appropriations*
Caucasus	$17,798,434.62	$ 490,442.30	$18,288,876.92
Constantinople	20,422,659.56	1,335,419.16	21,758,078.72
Greece	714,796.62	207,744.03	922,540.65
Syria—Palestine	8,993,373.38	844,313.82	9,837,687.20
Mesopotamia—Persia	6,962,490.99	579,468.58	7,541,959.57
Egypt	18,474.00		18,474.00
Japan	9,000.00		9,000.00
Switzerland	13,000.00		13,000.00
Appropriation to be Divided Between Caucasus, Constantinople and Syria.....	1,291,289.22		1,291,289.22
General Appropriations			
Industrial Relief	10,000.00		10,000.00
Personnel, Warehouse and General Relief Expense..	1,353,369.89		1,353,369.89
Cargoes	4,957,394.80		4,957,394.80
Special (For Loans)	6,000.00		6,000.00
Miscellaneous	698,378.96		698,378.96

*Balance.

Miscellaneous Individual Relief		57,683.55	57,683.55
		3,515,071.44	
Individual Relief Unadvised...		3,528.33	3,528.33
	63,248,662.04	3,518,599.77	66,767,261.81
Merchandise and Commodities in Warehouse or in Transit from States	2,177,332.14		2,177,332.14
	$65,425,994.18	$3,518,599.77	$68,944,593.95

BALANCE OF CASH, SECURITIES, DEFERRED EXPENSE AND SUSPENSE

December 31, 1923

Cash in Banks			
Bankers Trust Company, New York City.....		$ 1,500.31	
Bankers Trust Company, Paris.....		394.34	
Farmers' Loan & Trust Company, New York City		847.45	
Guaranty Trust Company, New York City.....		17,235.48	
Guaranty Trust Company, Paris.....		101.95	
National City Bank, New York City.....		65,313.03	
		85,392.56	
Cash Revolving Funds			
Caucasus and Alexandropol, Russia..	$35,000.00		
Athens	20,000.00		
Beirut, Syria	10,000.00	65,000.00	
Total Cash			$150,392.56
Securities	*Par Value*	*Book Value*	
Associated Congregation in the City of Philadelphia, Third Mortgage 6%..	$ 100.00	$ 100.00	
Midwest and Gulf Oil Corporation			
Preferred Stock	100.00	1.00	
Common Stock	100.00	1.00	
	$ 300.00		102.00
			150,494.56
Less			
Unpaid Drafts for Account of Agents in the Near East		923,688.88	
Loans Repaid in January, 1924.....		85,000.00	1,008,688.88
Net Deficit in Cash and Securities.....			858,194.32
Less			
Real Estate		9,000.00	
Advances and Suspense Items			
Expense Fund—Domestic Field Solicitors and Others	$71,497.13		
Deferred Expense—Domestic Field Solicitors	28,657.23		
Sundry Suspense Items	19,748.73		
Industrial Department	125,608.04	206,013.67	215,013.67
DEFICIT, December 31, 1923.....			$643,180.65

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

For the Calendar Year January 1 to December 31, 1923

The New Geography of the Near East

As the aftermath of a great war sometimes brings greater suffering than the war itself, so the year 1923 has brought to Near East Relief greater problems than were immediately presented by the Smyrna fire and disaster of 1922. For seven years Near East Relief had been saving lives, rescuing orphans, establishing them in institutions, and preparing them for self-support and economic independence in Anatolia in or near their native homes.

The Smyrna fire and disaster proved to be the first and somewhat spectacular outbreak preceding a long series of wholesale tragedies, expulsions, forced mass migrations, and exchange of populations that has no parallel in modern history.

The Evacuation of Anatolia

The evacuation of Anatolia involved the transfer from Harpoot, Caesarea, Sivas, Marsovan, and other interior stations of Anatolia, of 16,788 orphans to Greece and of 5,312 to Syria, or a total of 22,090 orphans transferred, exclusive of important assistance given to a larger number of adults and exclusive of intermediate transfers to Constantinople and other ports. Many of these 22,090 orphans were small children, requiring transportation by means of donkeys, camels, carts, or other conveyances, adding greatly to the expense. Moreover, from three to six weeks were required for the journey with continuous heavy expenses en route. It has been necessary to transfer some of the orphans as many as four or five times from one port to another. In addition to the expense of the transfer, there has been inevitable heavy expense in securing, equipping, and, in several places, building new homes for these exiled Anatolian orphans.

Feeding of Mediterranean and Black Sea Ports Refugees

The expense of relief work did not end, but only began, with the Smyrna fire and the deportation or evacuation from Anatolia. A total of more than 200,000 Greek and Armenian refugees found themselves at Aleppo, Beirut, Alexandretta, Mersine, Constantinople (Selemieh Barracks, San Stefano, Halki, and Prinkipo), Samsoun, Trebizond, Ordu, and other ports, having been practically driven out from their homes in the interior and unable to return under Turkish rule, though likewise unable, for a considerable time at least, to find home or haven in any other land. They were in truth men, women and children without a country.

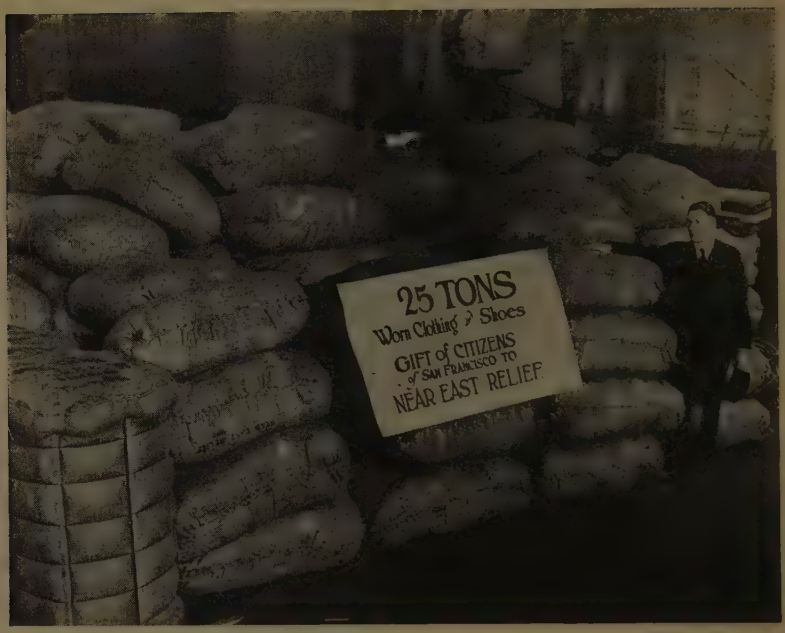
There has been no time since the Smyrna fire when Near East Relief has not felt obliged to feed a considerable number of these most unfortunate and for the most part innocent and helpless refugees.

Lives Saved

In addition to the refugees saved or assisted in connection with the first wholesale evacuation of Smyrna and Thrace and in addition to the 22,090 orphans transferred from Anatolia, Near East Relief, for a considerable part of the twelve-month period following the Smyrna disaster, has been supporting in various Mediterranean and Black Sea ports an average of approximately 40,000 refugees. The total number who have been materially assisted at these various Mediterranean and Black Sea ports, *exclusive of Smyrna,* and who to some extent owe their lives to Near East Relief, is in excess of 100,000 persons, chiefly women and children.

Admiral Bristol, in a report to the State Department under date of July 10, 1923, said: "If these relief activities were withdrawn from the Pontus and Constantinople, the refugees would undoubtedly perish of hunger and disease."

Under date of September 1, 1923, Mr. C. C. Thurber, Assistant Managing Director in Constantinople, writes: "The Samsoun and Trebizond work closes on September 15, and



San Francisco's contribution to the **3,820,458** *pounds of old clothes donated by the American people to Near East Relief in* **1923.** *(Standing: Judge Curtis D. Wilbur, Chairman California State Committee, now Secretary of the Navy.)*

so far as we can determine at least 23,000 people will be abandoned at that time."

Mr. C. F. Grant, the Director at Trebizond, writes: "To discontinue the feeding and other relief at the present time is nothing less than criminal. We pronounce the death sentence on 95 per cent. or more of these people the day we leave. I personally will hide my face, should we, like the European politicians, desert these refugees in the hour of need."

Feeding was continued in many cases through seven months of the present year or until in September when the last transfers to Greece were made under our direction.

Exchange of Populations

By request of both the Turkish and the Greek Governments, Near East Relief has served, with the International Com-

mission, as a neutral intermediary in the exchange of Turkish and Greek populations. Our established representatives and agencies in Anatolia, as well as in practically all other refugee and relief centers, have made it possible to co-operate in the discovery and releasing of civilian prisoners separated from their families and held since the Greek evacuation of Anatolia. Aside from the earlier co-operation in the wholesale evacuation, Near East Relief representatives have more recently, for the most part since July 1, supervised the release and transportation back to their families of 5,323 of these civilian prisoners. Besides, while the Mixed Commission was being organized for the exchange of populations, we supervised the movement of 7,024 Moslems from Mitylene in exchange for 7,491 Greeks from the Black Sea ports.

Re-organization Conference

As a result of radical changes in the political situation and the forced evacuation of all the Greek and Armenian orphans from the interior of Anatolia to Greece, Syria, and Palestine, it became necessary to make corresponding radical changes in the overseas organization. For this purpose a conference, attended by the Managing Directors, representatives of the Administrative Committees, and the General Secretary was held, with Dr. W. W. Peet, Chairman of the Constantinople Administrative Committee as presiding officer, at Athens August 17 to 23. At this conference, re-organization of the overseas administration with a newly constituted Advisory Committee and Area Councils was recommended; the recommendations were later adopted by the Executive Committee at its meeting of September 27.

An aged refugee who supports her orphaned grandchildren by spinning for Near East Relief's industrial department.

Likewise, the transplanting of the orphanages and the abandonment of the relief stations in Anatolia made possible and desirable a more effective organization and centralized control of our financial operations. This new financial plan as formulated and recommended by the Athens conference in August was officially adopted, with modifications suggested by our Auditors, by the Executive Committee at its meeting of September 27.

Other recommendations of this conference with reference to budget, Near East Industries, orphanage administration, industrial training, and the like, were later submitted to the Executive Committee and adopted as guiding principles.

Orphanage Enrollment

The year 1923 has seen a marked reduction in the number of orphans under our care as compared with 1922. The total orphan enrollment as of December 1, 1923, was 60,092 children, of whom 39,118 were in orphanages, 4,166 in subsidized homes under Near East Relief supervision, and 16,808 received food or other help from Near East Relief. Of this number 28,748 were in the Armenia Area (including Persia), 21,911 in the Athens Area (including Constantinople), and 9,433 in the Syria-Palestine Area.

The early part of the year witnessed a considerable increase in the number of orphans, followed by a more or less drastic elimination with the result that we had 14,159 fewer orphans at the close of the year than at the beginning. The temporary increase was due to the fact that in the evacuation from Anatolia large numbers of mothers died and other defenseless children associated themselves with our caravans in a way that made it almost impossible to refuse them protection in their flight to the coast. Likewise, in the refugee camps at Samsoun, Selemieh, and elsewhere, the heavy death rate among adults from typhus and other diseases left each day a new contingent of children orphaned during the night. The writer saw at one time in

The open-air dining room at Juniyeh orphanage, formerly a silk mill, which now houses 450 Armenian girls.

the Selemieh camp 300 children, all of whom had been orphaned by the death of their mothers since reaching the camp. In July and August, a drastic program of child-placing was inaugurated in order to reduce the number of children to the limits of our financial resources.

The fact, however, that the country was already overpopulated with refugees, that industries were demoralized, and that many of the children were handicapped by trachoma, favus or other contagious diseases, made it exceedingly difficult to find satisfactory homes, especially since most of them were of a foreign race, religion, and language. In most cases, it was possible to find homes for the children only by granting some small supplementary financial assistance with which to enable the family to support an additional child.

The pressing demands for supplementary feeding or other assistance in saving orphaned children in connection with refugee camps has been beyond our financial resources, desperate as the need has been and is.

Careful record has been kept during the year of the costs of orphanage support with continuous emphasis upon the necessity of reducing these costs to the minimum. The following table shows the average cost in the Athens Area:

COST PER ORPHAN

	July	*Aug.*	*Sept.*	*Oct.*	*Nov.*	*Dec.*
Sal. of Amer. Pers.	.258	.381	.485	.459	.458	.4460
Amer. Nurses Salary	....	....	.041	.080	.096	.1030
Wages of Native Pers.	1.352	.972	.970	.964	.984	1.0147
Native Nurses Salary	....	....	.069	.126	.127	.1363
Rent, Rep. & Exp. Bldg.	.955	.554	.496	.441	.427	.4205
Rent, Rep. & Exp. Equip.	.018	.024	.033	.032	.031	.0297
Print. & Office Sup.	.012	.015	.016	.020	.022	.0220
Fuel, Light & Water	.165	.133	.169	.164	.179	.1877
Tele., Teleg. & Postage	.006	.006	.007	.007	.007	.0070
Traveling Expenses	.098	.067	.088	.088	.084	.0785
Forage and Grain	....	....	.005	.005	.004	.0048
Food	3.485	3.203	3.196	3.171	3.093	3.0591
Medicines & Med. Exp.	....	.004	.089	.071	.197	.2045
Clothing	.995	1.484	1.280	1.804	1.770	1.7360
Auto & Truck Exp.	.133	.103	.099	.101	.106	.1048
Freight	.152	.109	.114	.196	.100	.1070
Educational Supplies	.002	.019	.023	.019	.020	.0202
Miscellaneous	.008	.012	.022	.026	.023	.0349
Income and Other Credits	.171	.160	.137	.110	.108	.1036
Laundry and Cleaning Sup.	.162	.154	.145	.139	.140	.1419
Duties and Taxes	....	....	....	....	....	.0001
Publicity	.001	....	....	....	....	.0005
Cash Relief	....	....	....	....	....	.0003
Interest Earned	.005	.002	.001	.001	....	.0008
Bank Commis. and Charges	.005	.001	.001	....	....	.0007
TOTAL EXPENSES	$7.639	$7.005	$7.218	$7.810	$7.772	$7.7458

It evitably costs far more to care for these children in a strange land where they are not only without father and mother but without any legal claim upon the government that has given them haven than it would cost if they were placed where they could share the resources of relatives or adequate government subsidies.

Distribution of Orphans According to Ages or Years of Dependency

Our analysis of ages of orphans shows that 83.6% of the children are under fourteen years of age and 63% are under twelve years of age. The "Bird's Nest" at Sidon nestles 389 "birdies," and the "Doll House" at Cephalonia is

Girls' buildings at Syra during construction by boy orphans. City of Hermopolis in background. In foreground, corner of Camp Jaquith, which sheltered boys while building the orphanages.

exclusively occupied by the babies and children of kindergarten age from among the thousand girls on the island of Cephalonia. The Cephalonia Orphanage will soon be transferred to the more economical location on the island of Syra.

An Orphan Island

In last year's report there was a section called "A Nation of Orphan Children," the narrative being illustrated by a picture of 18,000 children occupying the former barracks of the Russian Czar at Alexandropol. Except for the graduation of some three or four thousand of these orphans into self-support, this so-called nation of orphans is still in Alexandropol, 82 per cent. of them under 14 years of age but in training for future leadership of their people.

The new development of the year has been in connection with "an island of orphans" in the center of the Aegean Sea at the crossroads of the trade-routes of the Near East. This island of Syra is referred to by Homer as: "A

Two babies of the "Birds' Nest," Sidon. Among Near East Relief orphans are hundreds of this age.

place where dearth never comes, nor are the people plagued by any sickness." It is also the place where 2,500 children are now housed in buildings, largely constructed by their own hands, and where they are being taught trades in connection with the 21 industries of the Island, preparatory to spreading from that center to the various sections of the Near East as apostles of the idealism of America.

One cannot look into the faces of the thousands of these children—potential leaders of a new Near East—without being impressed with the strategy of the work, and the contribution toward international good will and world peace that will be made through these international wards, as they take their places of leadership in the Near East. The thought frequently recurs—education now or battleships later. There can be no doubt as to which is the wiser, more economical, and constructive program.

Industrial Training

Emphasis upon industrial training has been continuous during the year. In all the orphanages the children, in addition to sharing the routine duties of the orphanage household, are assigned to industrial schools or classes with the double purpose of learning a trade and contributing toward self-support. Instruction has been given in 28 types of industries at 93 centers. Extended and highly gratifying reports might be made of industrial developments in all areas. From the standpoint of percentages of orphans graduated into self-support, the Kavalla Area is noteworthy, where the older boys and girls have been in some measure centralized, and from this center approximately

50 per cent. have been placed on farms or in homes on a self-supporting basis. In the Caucasus, special attention has been given to agricultural projects on the 22,424 acres of land which Near East Relief cultivates, tax-free and rent-free, and on which a considerable portion of the livestock and food supplies of the orphanages is produced. More important, however, than the economic value of these farms and industries is the economic contribution to the country in the form of better agricultural methods, higher production per acre, more highly skilled artisans and trained leaders that, we believe, will prove a permanent contribution of incalculable value to the Near East and to the world.

Near East Industries

At the conference of Managing Directors in Athens in August, after a careful review of the agricultural and industrial activities of the various areas, a plan was outlined and later adopted by the Executive Committee for the segregation of all industrial, agricultural, and colonization projects from relief activities, under the name Near East Industries, controlled by Near East Relief but financially independent of relief appropriations. A report of progress on the industrial work was submitted to and considered by the Industrial Committee at its meeting on June 2. Since this meeting, marked progress has been made in the development of industries along the line of the report, and Mr. Barclay Acheson, Associate General Secretary, is now in the Near East completing the organization of this industrial work on a self-supporting basis.

The long workroom of the Girls' Industrial at Beirut.

Exhibit of refugee handiwork at the annual meeting of Near East Relief in New York, February 28, 1924.

Ambassadors of Good Will

Near East Relief looks forward to something more than the mere saving of the bodies of these unfortunate refugees and orphaned children. It is hoped that by this expression of human brotherhood and international friendship, these victims of the World War and race-hatred may be trained for larger industrial service and sent forth as ambassadors of good will, unselfish service, and world peace.

Medical Work

The largest medical work of the year has been done in connection with the refugee camps and in fighting typhus and other epidemics among refugees in their flight from the interior of Anatolia, in refugee camps and aboard ships where they have frequently been detained in harbors, unable to land. In this work our doctors and nurses have paid a heavy price; one American, one British and ten native doctors having lost their lives in fighting typhus in

Selemieh and other refugee camps around Constantinople. Four other American doctors and several nurses contracted typhus but recovered.

More than 200,000 different individuals have been ministered to during the year with food and medicine, and 500,000 were clothed.

During the year, 33 hospitals and 61 clinics have been operated, with an average of 395,427 treatments per month. This work is supervised by 8 American doctors, 21 American nurses, 52 local doctors and 121 local nurses; the local doctors and nurses are for the most part well trained but destitute refugees.

Near East Relief had reduced the number of sufferers from Trachoma from 65 to 21.4 per cent. among 30,000 children in Armenia and Syria, checked typhus epidemics in Constantinople and Aleppo, and stamped out malarial swamps in Samsoun. A striking illustration of both the life-saving and health-building work of Near East Relief is afforded

A ward in the hospital at Kazachi Post orphanage, Alexandropol.

by the contrast between the death rate among the orphans at Alexandropol in 1921 when in a single two-month period following their arrival from Turkey the death rate ran to more than 100 per 1,000, while the death rate during 1923 was only 8.64 per 1,000.

The first nurses' training school in Southern Russia has been a by-product of the medical work among the orphans in Alexandropol, and the first two classes of nurses graduated to find prompt and urgent demand for their services in connection with the hospitals of Tiflis and Southern Russia.

In Armenia, in order to fight various epidemics, it has been found necessary to establish our own bacteriological laboratories for the production of the vaccine, serums, and other laboratory products. This is the only laboratory of the kind south of the Caucasus Mountains and has produced vaccine on a self-supporting basis for the benefit of the whole of the Caucasus Area of Southern Russia.

Government Co-operation

Throughout the year we have had unstinted co-operation from the various governments under whose flags the orphans are now harbored. Despite the fact that these children are for the most part foreigners in the lands of their sojourn, frequently of a foreign race and foreign language, they are given every assistance that an impoverished government can possibly provide to strangers. Near East Relief enjoys full exemption from all customs charges, exemption from taxation and, with negligible exceptions, has the use, rent free, of valuable government buildings and exemption from customary charges on railroads and government controlled transportation lines.

Organization at the Home Base

Without the leadership and, in some instances, sacrificial co-operation of many thousands of volunteer committeemen and workers throughout the United States, the life-

saving service of Near East Relief would have been impossible. In every state there is a state committee composed of representative men and women, who give constructively of their time and thought to local management and promotion. Similar committees are organized in many counties, cities, and communities. Most of these workers look upon the work for the orphaned children of the Near East as a genuine contribution to international good will and world peace. Not only have religious and philanthropic organizations freely given their co-operation, but political, social, and commercial clubs and societies have rendered invaluable service.

Public School Co-operation

Educational leaders, both religious and secular, have rendered valuable assistance not only as a contribution to the children in the Near East but as a scarcely less valuable contribution to the character-building, educational development of the children in America. Without the assistance of the public schools, private schools, and Sunday schools of America as well as the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and similar organizations, the achievements of the past year would have been impossible.

Co-operation of the Press

The American public never fails to respond to the cry of need if the facts concerning the need can be placed before it. It is manifestly impossible to get these facts before the public in any reasonable, economical way without the co-operation of the press and large, organized, publicity channels. We, therefore, recognize the vital part which the press has had not only in saving the lives of the refugees and children but also in helping to strengthen international friendship.

Co-operation of Other Organizations

Near East Relief is dependent upon the co-operation of many other organizations, and one of the inspiring fea-

A fine example of disinterested cooperation. Illuminated sign contributed during the 1923 campaign in New York City.

tures of the work is the heartiness with which societies and individuals respond to the appeal of suffering.

Churches and Sunday Schools continue to be a major source of support. Catholics, Protestants and Jews give generously. Practically every ecclesiastical organization in America—north and south—east and west—has passed cordial resolutions of endorsement.

Especially notable has been the co-operation of the women's organizations of America under a special Near East Relief National Woman's Committee, of which Mrs. Percy V. Pennybacker, with great personal devotion and self-sacrifice, has served as Chairman.

Near East Relief is receiving the co-operation of practically all of the great fraternal organizations of the country —Lodges, Rotary Clubs, Young Men's Christian Association, Young Women's Christian Association and Knights of Columbus; of Chambers of Commerce, agricultural organizations, labor organizations, and milling associations; of Government Departments—State, War, and Navy; of

innumerable commercial concerns, who are contributing commodities, free advertising and other invaluable co-operation, and of newspapers and magazines—secular, religious and fraternal. Without this co-operation the life-saving achievements of Near East Relief would not be possible. Our indebtedness and the indebtedness of the people of the Near East to all these collaborating agencies is gratefully acknowledged.

Overseas Observers

During the past year a number of our Trustees, Chairmen of State Committees, and other volunteer workers have made a careful study of our overseas activities. These commissioners and visitors have included:

Dr. John H. Finley, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Trustees.
Mr. Oliver J. Sands, Chairman of our Virginia Committee.
Ex-Governor Henry J. Allen, Chairman of our Kansas Committee.
Mr. George M. Reynolds, Treasurer of the Illinois Committee.
Bishop James Cannon, Jr., Chairman of the Near East Relief Advisory Committee for the Methodist Church South.
Dr. S. M. Cavert, General Secretary of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America.
Dean W. L. Rogers, and Dr. Charles H. Boynton, of the Near East Relief Advisory Committee of the Protestant Episcopal Church.
Dr. Chester B. Emerson, of the Congregational Church.
Dr. George R. Gillespie, of the Southern Presbyterian Church.
Mrs. Alice Hegan Rice, Author.
Commisssioner Frank P. Graves, Chancellor of the University of the State of New York, and others.

(A report of Overseas Observers appears on pages 52-64, following.)

International Near East Association

At Geneva, Switzerland, September 7-10, 1923, fifty-five representatives of twenty Near East Relief organizations from fourteen countries completed the organization of the International Near East Association. Through this organization active work is being undertaken to enlist friends of the Near East in all parts of the world in co-operative service to the Near East.

The printed proceedings of this Association, together with the reports of the four commissions on various phases of the Near Eastern problem, are on file and available.

International Golden Rule Campaign

One of the products of the International Near East Association conference in Geneva was the inauguration of International Golden Rule Sunday, which was observed in many countries on December 2, 1923. Limitations of time rendered impracticable adequate organization for universal observance of this first International Golden Rule Sunday. The response, however, both financial and spiritual, was most gratifying, and it is the hope of the officers of the International Near East Association as well as of the Near East Relief that the experiment of last year may be but the beginning of an annual observance that will express the spirit of the Golden Rule and of international good will toward the oppressed, distressed, and unfortunate of all lands.

Near East Brotherhood

Gratifying progress has been made during the year in the development of the Near East Brotherhood in our own orphanages as well as among the graduate orphans who are now found not only in the Near East but in Italy, France, Switzerland, America, and other countries. The purpose of this Brotherhood is:

(1) To promote mutual helpfulness on the part of all orphans or other members of the Brotherhood in securing the best practical opportunity for self-support and service;

(2) To seek the economic, industrial, social, and moral welfare of all residents of the Near East; and

(3) To strive for nobility of character and the practice of forgiveness, self-sacrifice, and service to others as a rule of life.

An effort is made to keep record of all orphans as they leave our institutions and to direct them in lines of largest service. The response of the graduate orphans to this appeal has been most gratifying, and chapters of the Brotherhood are today found in Switzerland and France

There are enough Near East Relief orphans to make a real impression on the life of the Near East. They will settle in groups—each group the nucleus of higher ideals and more progressive methods. The photograph shows some of the 17,000 children at the orphanage center, Alexandropol, Armenia.

as well as in the Near East, while the positions of responsibility and leadership already attained by some of the older orphans suggest the great and possibly transforming influence that this Brotherhood may have upon the future of the Near East.

Overseas Personnel

At the close of the year 1923, Near East Relief had in its overseas service 166 American personnel, exclusive of the far larger number of scarcely less competent and, in some instances, highly educated and trained native personnel who have been recruited in large measure from the refugees. The fundamental principle guiding our Personnel Committee in the selection of all appointees for overseas is that service to others and not of self must be the underlying motive in seeking appointment with Near East Relief.

Near East Relief is a humanitarian organization. It has saved and, we trust, will continue to save many lives. We are not content, however, with the saving of lives, if by so doing we merely prolong the physical existence of a cer-

tain number of human beings; we want not only to *save* life but to *make* life, *bigger* life, *better* life, for a better day of peace and international good will that is to be. It is believed that most of our workers overseas are dominated by this ideal of unselfish service of their fellowmen and the vision of a better world.

The Price of Service

Since the beginning of our work, twenty-three of our American personnel have died in the service. Several of these clearly sacrificed their lives as a result of heroic volunteer service in posts of recognized danger. Others have been seriously maimed, have sacrificed limb, sight, and health as a result of faithfulness in the performance of service that transcended duty. Life—limb—sight—health —have gone without murmur or complaint.

As a result of the sacrifice of these lives and the contributions of many millions of dollars from the American people, there are living today at least 1,000,000 people who otherwise would have perished. A disproportionately large number of those who have been saved are little children. Most of the children, once in our orphanages, have already been graduated and restored to self-support and useful industry. About 60,000 of the younger and more dependent children are still under our care.

To what purpose have these lives been saved? If we have merely kept alive a million human beings as possible cannon fodder for some future war, the sacrifices mentioned above have been in vain and not worth the precious American lives laid down in the process of salvage. The real test of our work is yet before us. These children must not be merely so many lives saved; they must become so many forces for righteousness, progress, world brotherhood, and peace, permeating and transforming the industrial and social life of the Near East. To weaken or give up at this juncture is to sacrifice much of what has gone before, and in a large measure to invalidate the life sacrifices of our comrades.

It behooves us who are spared to be consecrated and rededicated to the unfinished work for which they died,—"that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain." In their memory and for their sakes, as well as for the sake of the world's future, we must carry on until these dependent children, international wards, have become exponents of the high idealism that led our American comrades to offer themselves for this outpost salvage service in the Near East, so that through these children of the Near East the world may learn that forgiveness is nobler than revenge, love better than hate, and self-sacrificing service grander than self-aggrandizement.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES V. VICKREY,
General Secretary.

SUMMARY OF NEAR EAST RELIEF OPERATIONS
(Jan. 1. 1924)

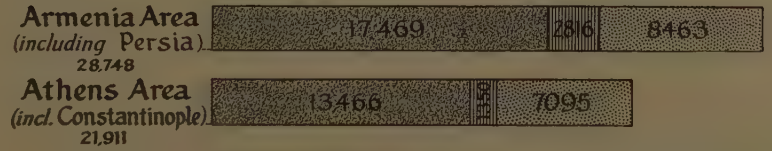
3 Administrative Areas { *Armenia Area, including Persia and Mesopotamia.* / *Syria and Palestine.* / *Athens Area, all of Greece and including Constantinople*

53 Orphanage Centers & 26 Substations.

93 Industrial Centers.
82 Hospitals and Clinics.
(395,427 *treatments monthly*)
60 Doctors and 142 Nurses.
166 American Personnel.

GRAND TOTAL OF CHILDREN AIDED BY N.E.R. 60,092 (*Dec 1st 1923*)

DISTRIBUTION BY AREAS



Note:- *Home placement is not feasible in Syria because of racial and religious differences*

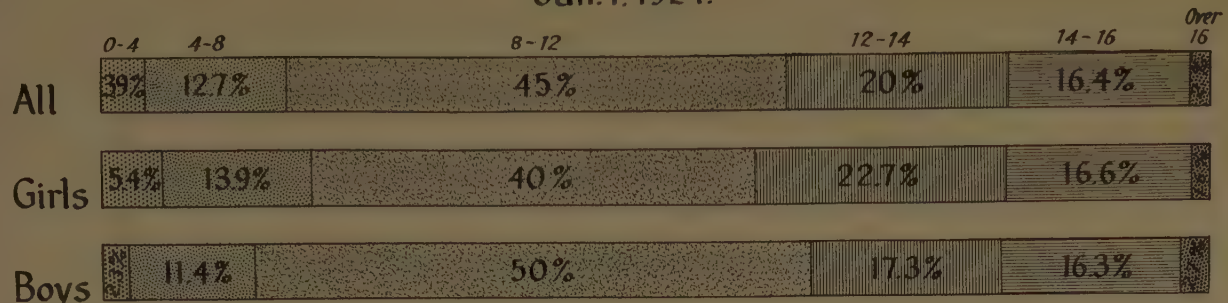
= *1000 Orphans receiving full care and training in orphanages.*

= *1000 Orphans placed in subsidized homes under Near East Relief supervision.*

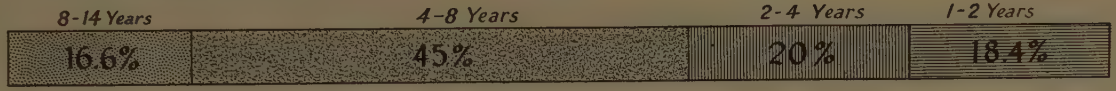
= *1000 Children reeeiving food and other help from Near East Relief*

Distribution of Orphans by Ages

Jan. 1, 1924.



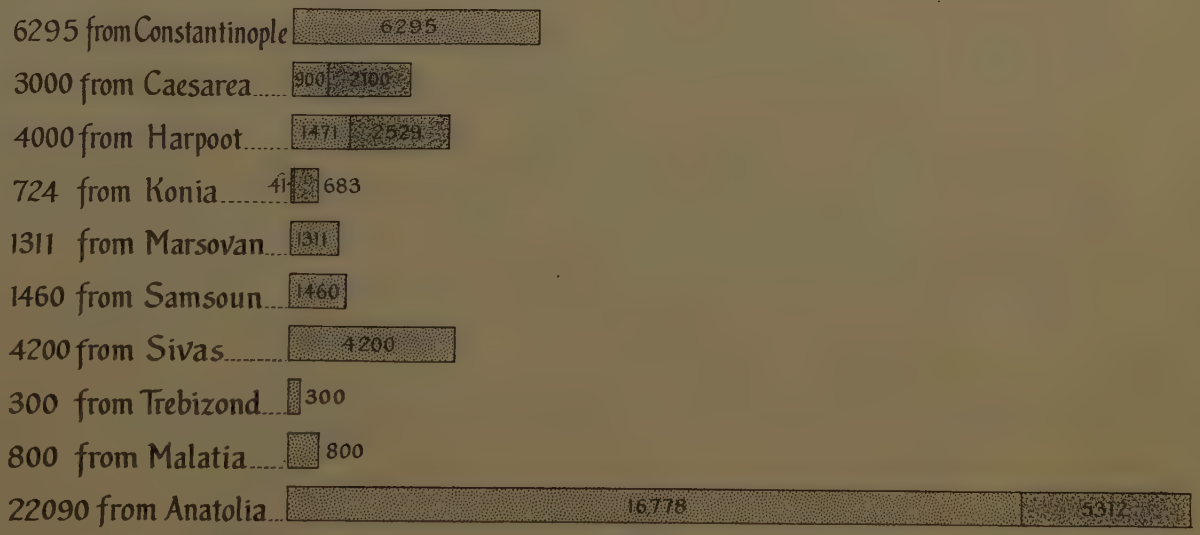
Distribution according to years of dependency



Theoretically boys and girls should be self supporting at 16 to 18 years of age. Practically there are other factors that enter in and upset calculations. Tens of thousands of refugees have already been absorbed. into the life of Syria and Armenia. The saturation point has been nearly reached. In Greece there are 460,000 not yet absorbed. Many skilled artisans are among them. It is hard for a boy to compete with men of 20 years experience.

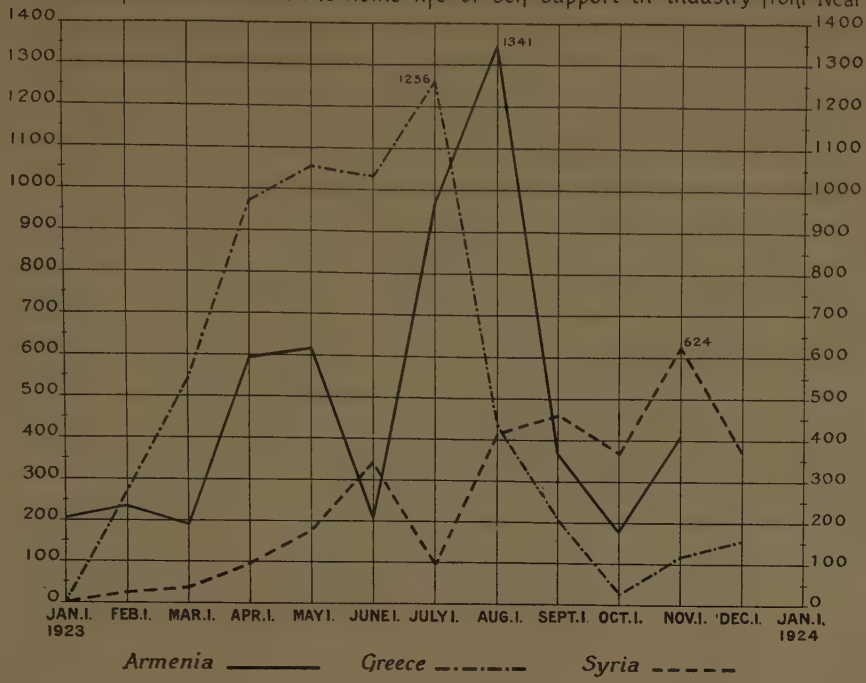
ORPHAN EVACUATION

This movement of orphans out of Anatolia, while started in 1922 was not completed until well into 1923, As no summary of this movement could be presented last year, the following summary of the centers from which they came and their final destination is given herewith.



RESTORATION TO NORMALCY

Rate of children restored to home life or self support in industry from Near East Relief Orphanages 1923



TOTAL RESTORED 1923: 14,159.

Restoration depends upon local economic factors.

Armenia: *Peak reached during harvest. Refugee farmers reaped first surplus— enabling them to take an orphan*

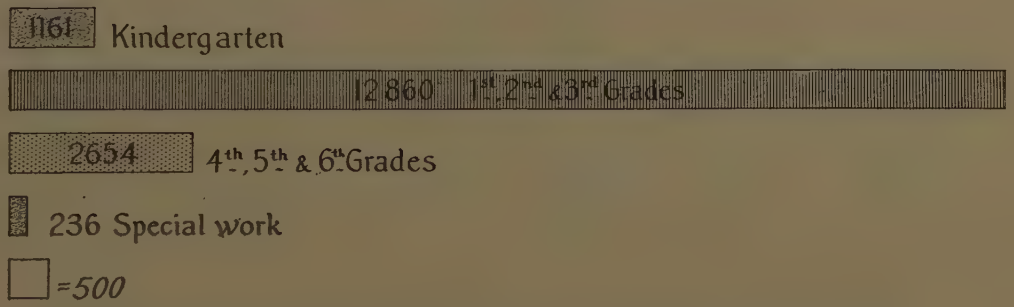
Greece: *Following evacuation from Turkey to Greece many were placed in Greek homes and Industries. Restoration declined sharply as refugees entering Greece increased. 20% of population now refugee.*

Syria: *Predominating Arab population and low economic state prevents extensive restoration. 80,000 Armenian refugees seeking rehabilitation in Syria.*

Conclusion: *Saturation point approached in all Areas— without some aid to refugees to eke out what they provide or without creating special Industries to absorb workers.*

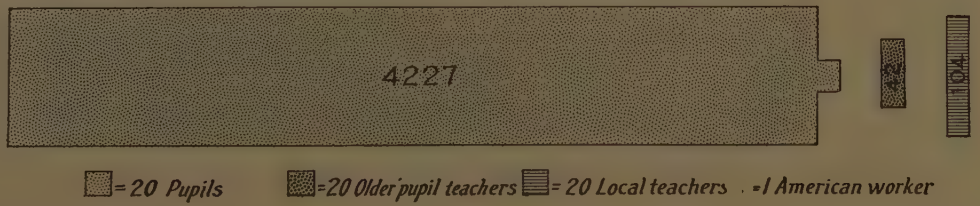
Distribution of Near East Relief Orphans in its Schools in Armenia

Figures for July-September 1923.



A Typical School "Regiment" in Armenia

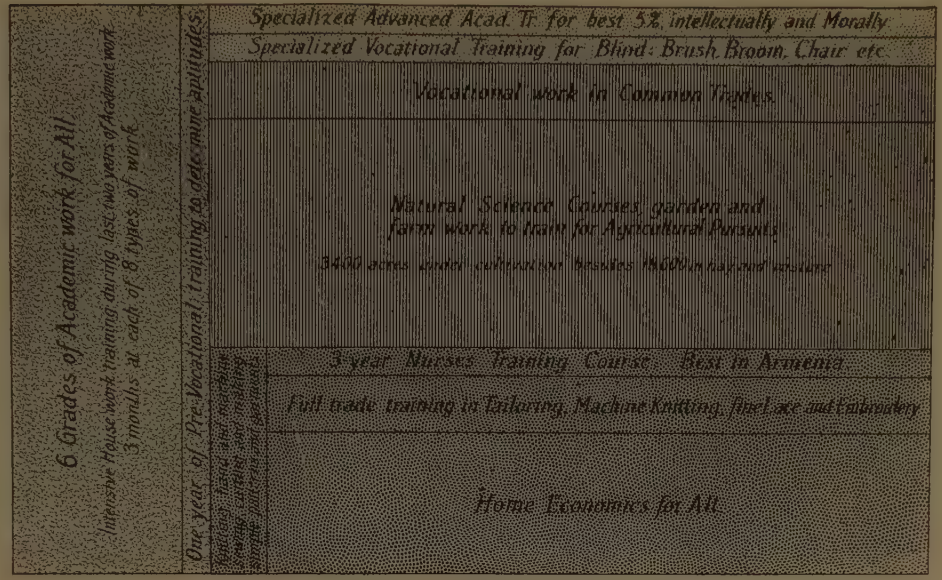
(Report for quarter ending Sept. 30. 1923.)



THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM OF NEAR EAST RELIEF IN ARMENIA.

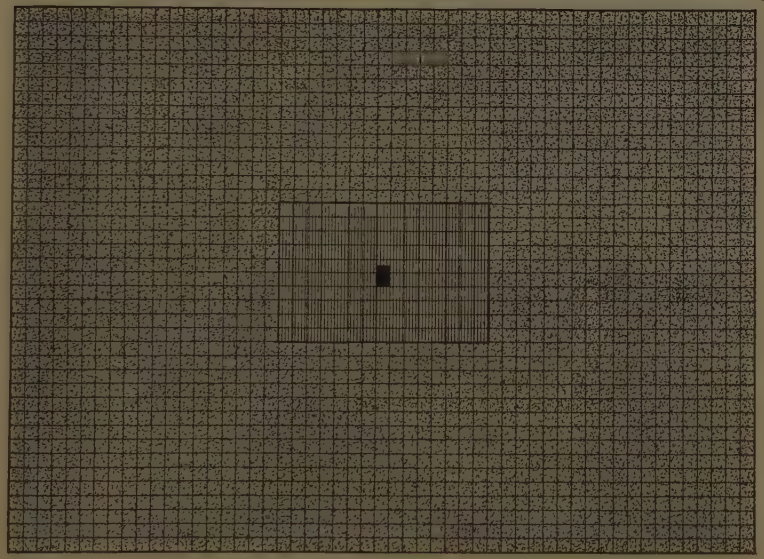
Report dated Sept. 7. 1923.

4 American Workers
417 Local Teachers
16911 Pupils ·
(1-40)


6 Grades of Academic work for All
Intensive House work training during last two years of Academic work 3 months at each of 8 types of work
One year of Pre-Vocational training to detect mine aptitudes
Specialized Advanced Acad. Tr. for best 5%, intellectually and Morally
Specialized Vocational Training for Blind: Brush, Broom, Chair etc.
Vocational work in Common Trades.
Natural Science Courses, garden and farm work to train for Agricultural Pursuits
3400 acres under cultivation besides 14000 in pasture and waste
3 year Nurses Training Course. Best in Armenia
Full trade training in Tailoring, Machine Knitting, Lace and Embroidery
Home Economics for All.

General Training for All · Special Training for either Boys and Girls · Training for Boys. · Training for Girls.

An Enviable Health Record in Armenia



▨ = 10 Orphans in Near East Relief Orphanages.

▥ = 10 Orphans in hospital of N.E.R. Orphanages.

■ = 10 Children who died each month last year.

The average number of children in hospital each month in the first six months of 1923 was 1500. 15 deaths each month. Average Orphanage enrollment 20672 this means a death rate of 8.64 per thousand per year.

The death rate in America is 11.3.

Causes of Death

□ = 500

AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS OF NEAR EAST RELIEF.

LOCATION OF AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS

PRESENT LIVE STOCK

Sheep	7690	Dairy Cattle	86
Beef Cattle	1200	Berkshire Boars	6
Hogs	240	High grade Bulls	8

Total 9230

PROPOSED INCREASES

Dairy Cattle by....300 | Sheep by.....2000

LIVE STOCK PRODUCTS

Meat	126,000 lbs.	Sheeps skins for coats	2300
Mutton Fat	1,260 lbs.	Cow hides for Shoes	800

Note: *Orphanages require 432,000 lbs of meat annually in Armenia alone*

EQUIPMENT

Tractors	22	Threshing Machines	2
Binders	8	Mowing Machines	12
Seed Drills	13	Plows, Harrows etc.	117

NEW FARM AREAS

(No production reports available)

N°4. Nazareth	60 Ac.	N°6. Corinth	200 Ac.
N°5 Syra	300 Ac.	N° 7 Kavalla	150 Ac
N° 8 Mt Olympus	10,000 Ac		

ACREAGE OF ESTABLISHED AREAS

▩ = 50 Ac. Barley, Wheat land
▩ = 50 Ac. Cotton land
▩ = 50 Ac. Vegetable land
▩ = 50 Ac. Rice land
▩ = 50 Ac. Pasture
▩ = 50 Ac. Hay

Farm Area N° 2
ALEXANDROPOL 2162 Ac.

Farm Area N° 3
ERIVAN 3850 Acres

Farm Area N°1 STEPANAVAN 16,412 Ac.

PRODUCTION IN ESTABLISHED AREAS 1923.

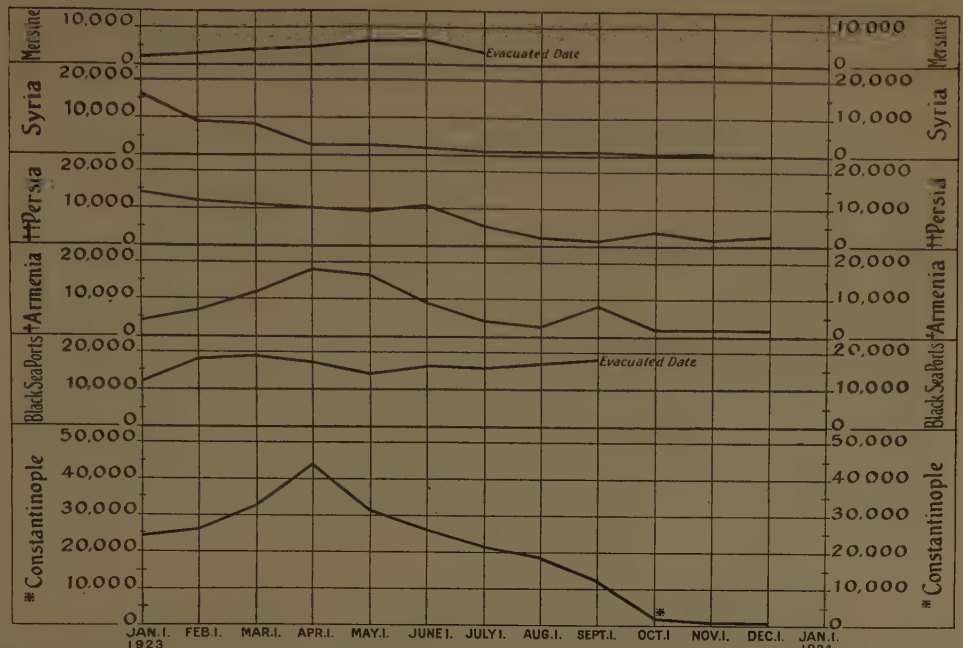
Hay production 3600 Tons

Note: *Production report gives actual production 1923. Area report represents large increases actually plowed or seeded for harvests in 1924.*

General Relief in Food and Medicine Administered by Near East Relief during 1923.

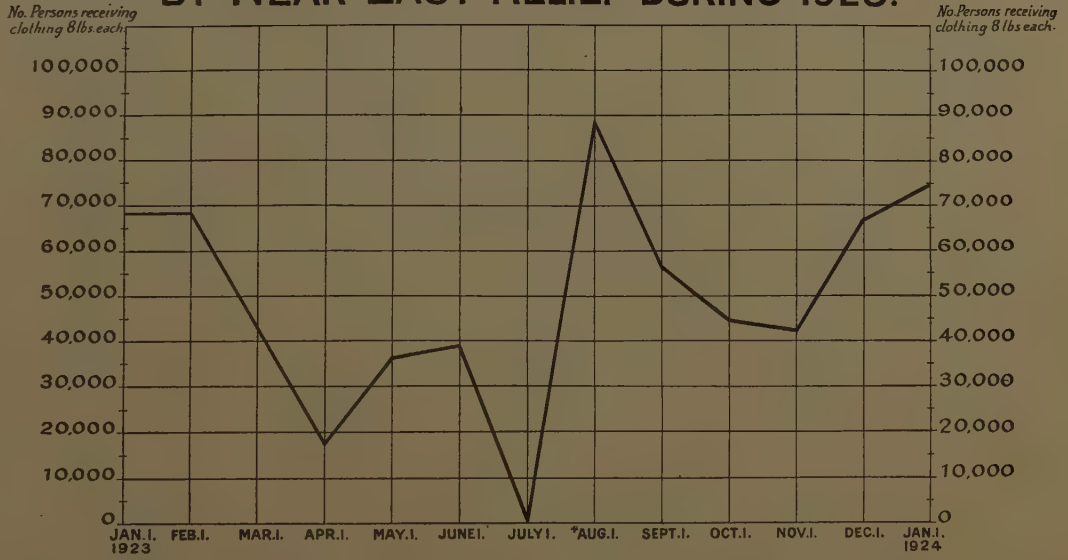
The peak came when 100,349 were being cared for during April 1923, when the accumulation of Christian refugees from Turkey increased at Constantinople, Black Sea and Mediterranean Ports. The majority of these were evacuated later to Greece

General Relief Work (Food and Medicine) by Areas during 1923.



* General Relief in Constantinople Area after evacuation in September consisted of Industrial Work mainly.
† 40% of General Relief in Armenia Area was given in Armenian Industrial and farm help.
†† - 80% of General Relief in Persia Area was given in form of seed and road work.

General Relief Work (Clothing) Administered by Near East Relief during 1923.



*Peak period during evacuation from Constantinople and Black Sea ports and beginning exchange of populations.

Aleppo Industrial Shops

Graduates' and Present Enrollment

Discharged, fully self supporting in two years

Present Enrollment

= 100 Boys = 100 Girls

Present Monthly Income from Sales

$600	Carpentry products
$510	Shoe making
$530	Tailoring
$100	Tin smithing
$340	Weaving
$160	Needle work
$125	Dressmaking

Total $ 2495 a month, Gross.

= $ 100.00

Some Facts about the Work

Carpenter Shop:- *Largest in Aleppo. Power Saws, Lathes, Drills. Produces Chairs, Tables, Desks, Buffets, Windows, Doors.*

Weaving:- *Averages 6000 yards a month of "Aladja" a native cloth that is in great demand.*

Tailor Shop:- *Largest in Aleppo. Patronized by Native Society, Bank and Gov't. Officials. Successfully handled contract for Gendarme Uniforms.*

Shoe Shop:- *Makes 60 pairs a week beside all orphan shoes.*

THE REFUGEES IN GREECE

1,050,000 refugees fled to Greece

The following

50,000 *emigrated*

90,000 *are settled in homes built by the Government.*

150,000 *died.*

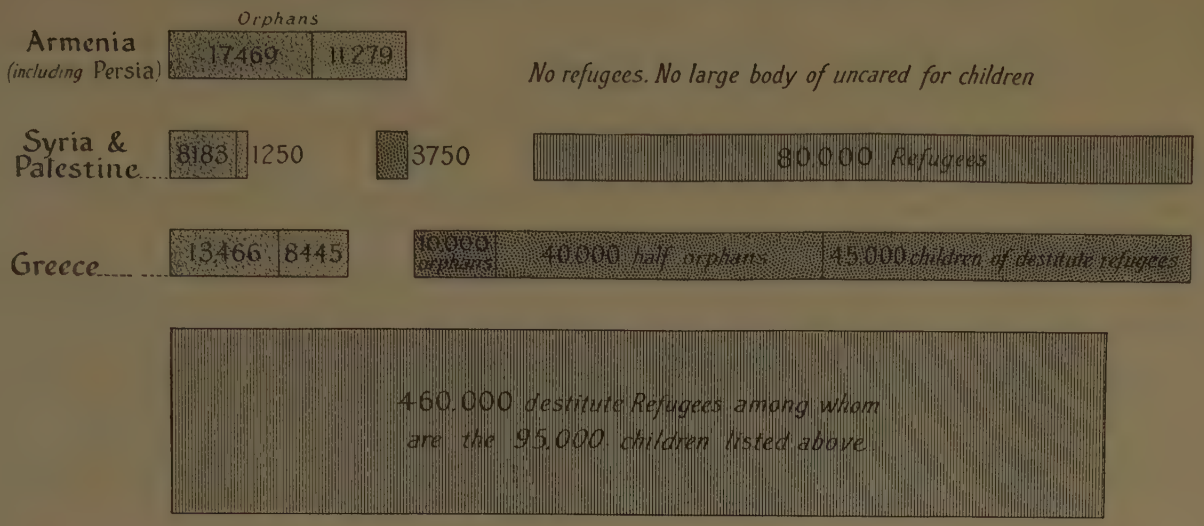
300,000 *found homes with relatives or friends.*

460,000 *remain unemployed; destitute*

Among these 460,000 are at least 95,000 children urgently needing outside aid. They are divided as follows:

= 10,000

PRESENT SITUATION IN THE NEAR EAST



REPORT OF OVERSEAS OBSERVERS

The following report represents the combined judgment of those American observers whose names are attached and who have had special opportunity during the past year of studying the institutions and activities of Near East Relief. Not being able to be in the Near East at the same time, the observers did not make a concerted survey of the field, but their experiences and their conclusions were so similar that they are able to submit a single statement as representing their common attitudes toward many problems and their common convictions on fundamental points of future policy.

When statements in the following report refer to parts of the field not visited by all members of the commission it is to be understood that they are made upon the authority only of those observers who had the opportunity of first-hand surveys in the particular areas.

THE PRESENT NEED

The Children in the Orphanages

It is the conviction of every observer that there continues to be an urgent need to furnish *full* relief to the children in the orphanages operated or subsidized by Near East Relief, numbering at the time of the presentation of this report something over 39,000, and such supplemental aid as may be rendered to those additional children partially dependent on Near East Relief outside of orphanages numbering about 21,000. (It may be noted that approximately 14,000 have been restored to normal life in homes or to self-support during the past year from orphanages. It may be noted also that approximately 40,000 other children, who were cared for outside of orphanages last year, have been assimilated into the economic life of the countries in which they were saved, or have been evacuated from Turkish territory to Greece with refugees able to support them after finding employment.)

These children, now under Near East Relief care, beyond question would suffer greatly and a large proportion of them become diseased and perish if support should be withdrawn. There is no doubt in the minds of the observers on this point.

In the Armenian Republic of Transcaucasia the children are in a territory greatly shattered by wars, amid a population depleted by removals and sickness and hunger. The crops will have to be unusually good for a period of years and industries developed before any number of people over and above that of the normal population can be cared for. In Syria and Palestine the greater part of the children are also Armenians and it must be borne in mind that not only is there no government of their own to be responsible for them but that there are also 80,000 Armenian refugees in Syria. The children cannot be cared for other than in the orphanages at the present time.

In the orphanages in Greece there are nearly 6,000 Armenian children whom the Greek Government allowed to enter Greece along with the Greek refugees when they were all expelled from Turkey. Greece cannot fairly be expected to bear the burden of the support of these Armenian orphans at a time when she is overwhelmed by a stupendous refugee problem of her own and herself needs outside help. The Greek children in the orphanages in Greece, removed from the Turkish territory, may perhaps eventually be cared for by individual Greeks or by the Greek Government, but at the present time the Greek Government is not able to care for both the orphans and the adult refugees of whom, as is well known, more than a million arrived on Greek shores a little over a year ago.

Orphan boys, evacuated from Anatolia, laying foundation for their new home at Antilyas, Syria.

Needy Children Outside of Orphanages

The observers are convinced that there are thousands of children outside of orphanages, in refugee camps or in homes of relatives or compassionate fellowcountrymen, who are living on a subnormal plane of existence. A fair estimate of orphans or half-orphans in Greece alone needing care would probably be 95,000.

There are also considerable numbers of children, parentless and homeless, who are wandering about in a destitute condition in Anatolia. A convoy recently sent into the interior to bring 200 of these to Near East Relief orphanages in Syria, reported the presence of hundreds of others in a similar condition. The problem of caring for the children now outside the orphanages is not necessarily a part of the program of Near East Relief, but the existence of the problem ought at least to be fairly faced.

Adult Refugee Needs

The question of the adult refugees in Greece is tremendous and cannot be adequately considered in this report, involving, as it does, other organizations than Near East Relief. But American observers are profoundly convinced of a great responsibility still resting on America, especially in the light of the new emergency which the winter has brought and which necessitates assistance (according to the estimates of Mr. Morgenthau and other responsible observers) to 400,000. We emphatically urge that every possible assistance be given to these refugees, who constitute a problem far beyond the present capacity of the Greek Government to meet.

The problem presents a special challenge to the outside world because of the one hundred thousand Armenian refugees in Greece for whom no one can reasonably expect the Greek Government, already struggling beneath the load of the refugees of its own blood, to accept the responsibility. All these needs are accentuated by the background of general conditions in the Near East—the nations war-torn,

populations uprooted, racial hatreds still smoldering, a low subsistence level on the part of the masses of the population. The whole situation demands the continued sympathetic help of America if a constructive solution is to be found.

WORK ACCOMPLISHED BY NEAR EAST RELIEF

General Population

It was the general impression of the observers, gathered from conversations with the government and church officials as well as with missionary and relief representatives, that probably a million people have been saved either from death or untold suffering through emergency food and other relief by Near East Relief. The great majority of these (aside from the refugees in Greece, considered below) are in the Armenian Republic of the Russian Caucasus and are now self-supporting.

Refugees

From many sources in Greece the observers received information that Near East Relief by its prompt action after the Smyrna disaster, its use of its stores, its funds and its personnel, was largely responsible, with the cooperation of other agencies, for the removal of the refugees totaling approximately a million, from Smyrna, Black Sea Ports and Constantinople into Greece and the Islands of Greece. What would have happened to these refugees apart from the speedy action of Near East Relief in getting them transported to places of safety it is appalling to contemplate.

Children Saved

The observers are convinced that approximately 100,000 orphan children have been saved by Near East Relief and supported either in institutions or with rehabilitated refugees until they could be brought to a point where their lives would not be endangered by withdrawal of support. This is a great achievement of which the American people should be proud.

The largest medical work of 1923 was done in connection with fighting epidemics among refugees. Dr. Wilfred H. Post and his staff at Constantinople in typhus suits, without which it is dangerous to enter the camps.

The observers record their belief that the hospital work accomplished in the Near East for both the children and adults is one of its most important contributions, not only in the saving of life, but also in influencing the entire native population to new ideas of health and sanitation. Especially the observers noted the work in behalf of Trachoma-infected victims in all areas visited. The service of men like Dr. Post, Dr. Marden, Dr. Gannaway and Dr. Uhls has made a lasting impression for American philanthropy upon the Near East. Reference should be made also to the helpful cooperation of the American Women's Hospitals, financed in part by Near East Relief, and especially to the work of Dr. Mabel E. Elliott.

Child Welfare and Training

The American observers were much impressed by the general condition in the orphanages. Wholesome food, though very simple, clean garments and beds, general healthful and sanitary conditions are marked features of the orphanage administration by Near East Relief, and are often secured only in the face of great obstacles.

The observers were pleased by the development of industrial work for the children. This has been an important source of economy, in the amount produced for orphanage use and for training of the orphans for future self-support, with the children actually making their own shoes and clothing to a considerable extent. Rug-weaving, shoemaking, carpentry, blacksmithing, sewing, pottery, lace and embroidery work, baking, canning, farming, etc., were all being carried on. Without having been able to give much expert attention to this work hitherto, Near East Relief has built up a program of industrial training that is of great importance.

The observers who visited the Republic of Armenia in the Russian Caucasus were most favorably impressed by the progress made in agricultural production and training here. The Near East Relief has reclaimed waste land, aided revival of cotton growing, fostered farm colonies of orphan boys, introduced high grade cattle and hogs as resistance to the Siberian plague, and inaugurated plans for opening an area of virgin land to homeless farmers.

The American visitors were surprised and gratified to find the extent to which elementary educational work had been developed. Without many professional teachers, without books or pencils or slates, without heated schoolrooms or any of the ordinary facilities, an educational program was nevertheless going forward. In many cases older orphans were teaching the younger. In view of the difficulties under which Near East Relief work is carried on, the accomplishment in elementary education is remarkable.

The observers were everywhere impressed with the moral and spiritual influence of the Near East Relief upon the children. The educational program, the recreational plans and the general program of work were teaching the children habits of self-reliance, teamwork and unselfishness.

The place of religion and religious worship was everywhere recognized, although no comprehensive program of relig-

ious education has yet been formulated. Provision for worship for the children according to the faith of their fathers is the general practice. In Syria, owing to more favorable local conditions, the program of religious training has been developed further than in other areas. In the Russian Caucasus the Soviet Government, while not permitting religious instruction of a formal character in Near East Relief schools, has permitted it to employ, as members of its staff, representatives of the Orthodox Armenian church and has allowed religious worship to be regularly maintained for the orphans.

International Values

Along with the tangible results in the saving of life and in the training of thousands of children for useful citizenship, the American visitors have seen in the work of Near East Relief results of more intangible but far-reaching character. Foremost among these is the influence of this work in the direction of international goodwill. The service of the American people through Near East Relief to the various peoples of the Near East has been a most potent factor in developing friendship between the United States and the Near East.

In Greece the friendly attitude of the government and the people, in spite of all the political changes in that land and in spite of severed diplomatic relationships over a lengthy period, has been noteworthy. In every quarter the observers heard expressions of deep gratitude to the United States and of enthusiasm for our country. Two illustrations of this attitude will

Vegetables raised by the girl-farmers of the Alexandropol orphanages.

Boys at drill on the Island of Corfu. Physical training is a compulsory part of Near East Relief's program.

suffice. The government of Greece presented to Dr. Finley an ancient stone from the Marathon Road, to be placed in the College of the City of New York, as an expression of the gratitude of the Greek people. And when President Harding's death occurred the Greek refugees, with the help of their government and the Church, held a unique memorial service in the Cathedral at Athens, thronged by thousands of refugees and orphans, as a symbol of their gratitude to the people of whom President Harding had been the head.

In the Armenian Republic in the Russian Caucasus there has been marked cooperation between the governmental authorities and Near East Relief. A convincing evidence of this is the 22,000 acres of land for agricultural use and the buildings for orphanages turned over to Near East Relief without cost. The work of Near East Relief in this area has gone far to convince the people of American goodwill and integrity.

In Syria and Palestine likewise the work of Near East Relief has undoubtedly made for a friendly attitude on the part of native leaders and the French officials there toward the United States.

In the case of Turkey there have been grave difficulties, due to the emphasis in America upon Turkish cruelties to the minority peoples, but there is abundant evidence that the spirit of humanitarian service on the part of Near East Relief, regardless of race or creed, has elicited genuine

respect from the Turkish people. That this is the case is conspicuously indicated by the fact that Mr. H. C. Jaquith, the managing director of Near East Relief in Greece (formerly located at Constantinople) was requested by the Turkish authorities to supervise the first exchange of populations and to safeguard the rights of Moslem subjects who are being transferred from Greek territory to Turkish. One could not imagine a higher tribute to the impression of justice and fair dealing made by Near East Relief.

In a word, Near East Relief has been and is throughout this chaotic part of the world, a manifestation of the highest side of American life. This service, carried on without any thought whatever of political or economic advantage to be gained in the Near East, has been and will long continue to be a powerful factor in cementing friendship between America and the Near East and in promoting international peace and goodwill among the peoples of the Near East.

Spiritual Values

The significance of the work of Near East Relief cannot be described without at least a brief reference to the great contribution which it is making indirectly to more helpful relations between the Orthodox Eastern Churches and the churches of the West.

Near East Relief has unconsciously served as a valuable interpreter of each to the other. On the part of the religious forces of America there is a new appreciation, as a result of the cooperation of Near East Relief workers with Eastern Church officials, of the spirit and life of the Eastern Churches today. In the Eastern Churches, on the other hand, there are new currents of spiritual life today as a result of direct contact with the progressive church workers of the West. The observers believe that in this greatly increased understanding and cooperation between the religious forces of East and West there are vital influences making for Christian unity and more effective Christian service throughout the world.

General Policies and Quality of Work

The American observers desire to record their observation that Near East Relief has been generally fortunate in its personnel and has handled its work with efficiency and economy. They saw no evidences of extravagance or waste. The work has been organized first into areas and then into districts, with sub-divisions down to the local groups of children, so that there can be careful supervision. Those observers who had the opportunity to go into the matter found the methods of bookkeeping and finance and the supervision of warehouses and expenditures businesslike and adequate. The Administrative Committee, composed of leading Americans in the Near East not connected with Near East Relief, seemed to be exercising wise oversight.

The observers were impressed by the devoted spirit of the workers and regarded them as of unusually high grade. Most of them have been drawn from previous service with the Red Cross, Christian Associations, and missionary forces. The co-operation of the missionary agencies has been especially notable and of incalculable help.

Near East Relief in all of its areas was standing for the following fundamental policies:

(1) *Bringing local populations to self support:*

Care seems to have been taken to avoid pampering the population. During the period of emergency food relief, it was the policy always to give the minimum and still maintain life, in order to encourage the individual to work for food relief and to come to self-support at the earliest possible moment.

(2) *Bringing the children to self-support at as early an age as feasible:*

Near East Relief is regarding the age in general as sixteen years.

(3) *The Home placement of children either with or without supplementary feeding, whenever possible:*

This means a definite effort to find homes of rehabilitated refugees or relatives and friends in which children can be placed as soon as possible.

(4) *A non-sectarian attitude toward ancestral religious faith:*

The observers found no criticism on the part of local church officials or others in this regard. No just charge of proselyting could possibly be brought.

(5) *Co-operation with the local government officials and the local church leaders:*

This has been the means both of developing a sense of responsibility in the local forces and also of securing valuable help in carrying on the task of relief. Near East Relief has secured from local government officials aid, where possible, which meant the saving of many hundreds of thousands of dollars, including free buildings, transportation and agricultural land. Much of the teaching and other work in the orphanages has been performed in return for food relief. Even in its refugee work it has, so far as possible, set people at tasks that would rehabilitate their towns and lands and has given them food relief as pay.

Nursery children at Kazachi Post, Alexandropol, playing with toys sent from America.

RECOMMENDATIONS

A. The observers are convinced that the task of saving human life which the Near East Relief has been carrying on during the recent years of chaos in the Near East must be continued until the children are brought to self-support. America cannot well desert or turn back after putting its hand to the plow. Nearly two-thirds of the orphans now in institutions of Near East Relief are under twelve years of age. These children cannot be abandoned before they have been brought to years of self-support. The extent of work will be gradually reduced. But there are thousands of children under five or six years of age. No one who knows the situation in the Near East could think for a moment that we could withdraw our support from them now. To do so would mean that most of them would perish or eke out a miserable existence, becoming liabilities instead of assets to the whole Near East.

Moreover, it is the conviction of the observers that if this were not true, even if it were possible for local agencies to save some of the children, the service now being done by this country is well worth its cost to America.

B. The observers with similar emphasis record their conviction that these children should be so trained as to bring them to independent self-support and to enable them to play a worthy part in the future of the Near East. This means that they must have an elementary training in common school studies and also along industrial or agricultural lines. The observers recognize the great difficulties that are involved in this plan. Even a very modest educational program involves a carefully developed plan, training of native teachers, the supplying of equipment, and this will mean a per capita expense somewhat beyond that which has been provided for feeding and clothing the orphans thus far.

The observers further realize the problem that is involved in America in changing from an appeal for starving children to an appeal for children that have been rescued but

still need care. They are convinced, however, that to fail to meet this responsibility today would be to lose much of the benefit that has been gained by the work of America in the Near East. The boys and girls who are today our wards in these orphanages are an important part of the Near East of the coming generation, perhaps the decisive part so far as the higher life of this chaotic area of the world is concerned. To fail in our duty to them would be to miss one of our greatest opportunities for the building of a better Near East.

C. The observers believe that Near East Relief should accept the responsibility of interpreting to the American people the general need of the Near East as well as the special need of the children in the orphanages. There is extensive need not only for the care of the orphans in institutions which is the particular responsibility of Near East, but also for assistance to the hundreds of thousands of other helpless children in the Near East.

D. The American observers wish to record their further belief that Near East Relief, being the only American relief organization doing work in the Near East and Transcaucasia, should also accept the responsibility, so far as it may be possible to do so, of interpreting to the American people the dire need of the refugees in Greece and elsewhere and of securing funds to supplement the inadequate resources of the Greek Government.

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Editor New York *Times*.
HENRY J. ALLEN,
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SAMUEL MCCREA CAVERT,
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OLIVER J. SANDS,
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JAMES CANNON, JR.,
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FELIX T. MCWHIRTER,
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FRANK L. FAY,
President Greenville Steel Car Company, Greenville, Pa.
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